ASHEHAM HOUSE,
RODMELL,
LEWES.

Sunday.

My Billy.

I shan't see you now for weeks I suppose as you seem to be gallivanting off all over the place. We shall go home I think towards the end of next week. that's to say about Thursday or Friday week. so you will have the place free for you after you have done your three weeks ends. I went to see Craig on Friday. He thought me much better & that I could come back in a fortnight. I had some talk with him about you. He was very kind & looked up

the notes he had made when he saw Leonard. I suppose he said pretty much the same to me as to him. I told him what Savage & Hayslop had said & he seemed to think it possible that you could get into a state when the risk would be very much less - in fact I should say on the whole he more or less agreed with Hayslop. But I can tell you more when I see you - There is no hurry & it is difficult to go into details in writing. I hope you've recovered at Studland. I am glad to know I was always right about Aunt Mary. It isn't worth while seeing these old hags - they're so much more disgusting than amusing.

Yours
V. B

Rotch 4172

ASHEHAM HOUSE,
RODMELL,
LEWES. Feb. 6

My Billy.

You do seem to have gone back to the 90's with a vengeance. How incredibly antediluvian it all sounds. I think I prefer to hear about it all than to be in it. But still I am rather hurt that you didn't wait for me to give the dinner at the Cock to which you promised to invite me. The least you can do now is to write & tell me all about it. I don't know when I shall see you. Are you going to Leeds next Sunday or what? We shall come back I think on Thursday or Friday. My affairs are due next week which makes us a little uncertain as to the exact day. But I expect it will certainly be one of the two. We shall on the whole be rather sorry to go. The weather has been rather better lately & this place is very beautiful. Lots of crocuses are out - chiefly yellow I regret to say - which I'm afraid is the fault of my Dutchman. & the daffodils are all sprouting. Rows of tulips are coming up, there are quantities

& violets & a few snowdrops. Some days are like warm spring. On the other hand it generally pours & blows like the devil. I see the country has immense advantages, especially as regards work. But I suppose we never shall really make up our minds to retire to it. Clive has gone to London today & lunch with Roger, Duncan & Miss Stein. Roger was here for Sunday. & the air is teeming with discussion on Art. They think they are getting further. I don't know. Roger's views of course are more mature than ours. He is at one pole & Clive at the other & I come somewhere in between on a rather shaky foothold. But none of us really agree with Leonard. Whatever he may say to the contrary. & Duncan tells me it is a gross libel to say that he does either. So your husband had better reconsider his position I think. We shall go on till doomsday I suppose.

Duncan's art is supposed to be improving. & I think his latest works are very good. There is hope after all that he may be the long looked for British genius. I hear that Ethel Sands is just settling in London. so he will be upon us when we return. It will be very cold to come back to the thick Pittings again.

Have you settled anything about your plans for the future since you wrote? had all the conflicting advice or are you still vague? Yours LS

ASHEHAM HOUSE,
RODMELL,
LEWES. Feb. 12

My Billy.

We shall I suppose just miss you - as we shall be up early on Friday afternoon & you most likely will come by the 3.20. I shall be rather sorry to leave for the last day or two here have been lovely. Of course it will set fine just as we go. However yesterday was so delicious that we took our lunch out & had lunch on the downs. It was like Italy in summer. In the way our return will be a good thing. Our household is getting so love sick that we can't rely upon anything being done The sugar basin is filled with semolina, the pepper mill with coffee beans. No one remembers

to call Clive & the water is half milk. We hope for a more rational state in London without Mr Gunn.

It is very interesting about Florence when I first heard of it I thought what a good thing. Then I began to think of all the people who would probably rather dislike it especially if Florence goes to live in Cambridge again. But I suppose on the whole it is a good thing. It a blessing we needn't write as I had been thinking I ought to & condense what the devil we could say. Shall you go & call on Henry J.? I really don't think I can renew relations with him. It's too difficult. I wish we could have seen him & Aunt M. together. I suppose we shall meet some time next June. Yours

NYPL

Albergo d'Italia. Urbino. May 3. (1913)

My Billy. I have only just got your letter from Ravenna. Roger, Duncan & I came here yesterday in the hope of finding a lovely little country town where we might print. Clive stayed on at Ravenna till today & has now arrived bringing your letter with him. Here we are in the most horrible place as all begin to do all mountain places & people are horrible. It is cold & raining. The people are dour & hostile. The hotel is dirty & everyone cheats. They are breaking down the wall outside my bedroom door - & we are therefore going on tomorrow to Spoleto & then to Rome. The weather had been getting lovely & so we hope to get into warmth again in the plains. Yes I had been anxious to hear as you had written to me last I don't know what had happened to your letter. It seems to have been torn open & glued together again with ink. & is in a horrid mess. I wish I could see the result of my gardening at Asheham. I hope Sydney sees that he was wrong if it is really what you describe. Who is the lunatic who has planted the Christmas trees? It is too ghastly to think of Nancy & Ernest dreading the summer evenings. Why don't they commit suicide at once & end their boredom. You will have Lisa on you soon & will I hope write me an account of her visit.

The best place we have been to was Ravenna. There I could have stayed happily for some time. We have now bought large quantities of crockery. stuffs. etc. mostly to be sold at Fitzroy Sq. We also discovered a genius

might write to me too even if he is a succa

Albergo d'Italia. Urbino. May 3. (1913)

My Billy. I have only just got your letter from Ravenna. Roger, Duncan & I came here yesterday in the hope of finding a lovely little country town where we might paint. Clive stayed on at Ravenna till today & has now arrived bringing your letter with him. Here we are in the most horrible place as it begin to do all mountain places & people are horrible. It is cold & raining. The people are dour & hostile. The hotel is dirty & everyone cheats. They are breaking down the wall outside my bedroom door - & we are therefore going on tomorrow to Spoleto & then to Rome. The weather had been getting lovely & so we hope to get into warmth again in the plains. Once I had been engaged to you as you had written to me - but I don't know what had happened to your letter. It seems to have been broken open & glued together again with ink. & is in a horrid mess. I wish I could see the result of my gardening at Asheham - I hope Sydney sees that he was wrong if it is really what you describe. Who is the lunatic who has planted the Christmas trees? It is too ghastly to think of Nancy & Emma dreading the summer evenings - Why don't they commit suicide at once & end their boredom - You will have Lisa on you soon & will I hope write me an account of her visit.

The best place we have been to was Ravenna - there I could have stayed happily for some time. We have now bought large quantities of crockery. stuffs. etc. mostly to be sold at Fitzroy Sq. We also discovered a genius

might write to me soon even if he is a success/ [illegible]

Hotel de Milan
Città di Roma
Rome
We hope to be
I hope to be
11 5 1913

a young man of exquisite taste & a charming smile, called
Dante Paradiso. from whom Duncan bought two enormous
painted wooden figures & Clive a large ish painting. Roger
has commissioned him to do another & twice for the drawing
You can imagine the activities & the noise of the party
Roger is up with the lark. Does many sketches & all
the sights & he & Clive are indefatigable in their attempts
to hail travel. his cheeks & cant way / listen to him talk. Bridges
Pascal / struck at sightseeing & wd refresh & be more
than absent one thing a day / find that Duncan sympa-
thises with me & the / & I find the conduct of the party
in my hands & planned settled days in advance & a month
in advance wants of the time keeping. Perhaps it is as well
we can't. We have seen today one of the best pictures
in the world a very beautiful Piero della Francesca
& it was hard work seeing here in spite of all the humours of
the place. One of my principal amusements is reading
Roger's family letters which throw an amusing light on
their / ours characters. I would like to quote from one
/ them but it is thought too dangerous. What is
Sydney's latest love affair? Molly apparently thinks it
too horribly sordid but does not go into details. However
as she says you know about it / think you might
have it here. How tales in about the divorce case
& hope Leonard did get it. My love was not re-
pulsed / I fear it was not even noticed. But then
I don't suppose matters in the way ordinary people
do. & I am very fond of Leonard & tell him I think he

(62)

7/1913

TELEPHONE 6247 CITY.

46, Gordon Square,
Bloomsbury. July 30

My Billy.

I have just had your letter - I don't want to seem like difficult about Asheham but I am rather surprised at you proposing to let it for August without telling me first. If you don't want to be there yourselves I should very much like to have it for the painting party that I am getting together for part of August. As far as I am concerned I don't want to let it - I suppose that as things are I have a half share in the letting. But if you want to we could probably come to some arrangement about my taking it. In any case, if you don't want to be there I should like to have it for such week ends as are due to me

You see except for 6 weeks in the winter we have had no frost at all out of it this year. But as you have wanted it for special reasons all this time of course there is every reason why you should have had it. But I think we ought to come to some arrangement about August before you take any steps. I had thought you were certainly going to be there yourselves or I should have written about it before as it would be much the best place for my purpose. Will you let me know what you want as soon as you can?

Yrs VB.

T.G. PARSONS 3.2.73